

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-23 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 16 being the independent claims. The amendments have been made to remove multiple dependency from the claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

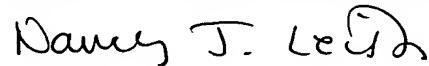
Support for the amendment to the claims is found, *inter alia*, throughout the specification and the originally filed claims.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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